



WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE A. F. of L., BY INSTRUCTING
THE ST. LOUIS CONVENTION, DIRECTED THE OFFICE AT
HEADQUARTERS TO FURNISH A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER,
FREE OF COST, TO ALL OFFICIAL LABOR PUBLICATIONS.

Containing a brief summary of important matters, affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will further the development and progress of the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
HEADQUARTERS

401 809 G ST. N. W., WASHINGTON, D. C.

FRANK MORRISON, SECRETARY SAMUEL GOMPERS, PRESIDENT

No. 10.

ANOTHER INJUNCTION SPASM

Labor Speakers Injoined from Speaking in an Amusement Park at Altoona, Pa., to Railroad Employees.

Washington, June 10.—Arrangements had been completed in Altoona, Pa., for a mass meeting to be held in one of the public amusement parks on Sunday, June 4. The meeting was arranged for the purpose of listening to prominent speakers in the labor movement, and the employees in the shops of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company had been invited to attend. The railroad company has many ramifications and upon the information reaching the company that a meeting was to be held in the amusement park they procured an old lady who was a part owner in the park to sue out an injunction against the lessees of the park prohibiting the lessees from permitting the meeting to be held, stating in the injunction that the park was only to be used for "moral" amusement. It was apparently expected that the injunction would be violated and the meeting held. It was decided, however, to change the meeting place to a piece of ground on the side of a hill, the property being owned by those who were sympathetic toward the labor organizations. An attempt was then made to bring pressure to bear against those who owned the latter piece of property to also forbid the meeting, but their pleas were unavailing. The meeting was held on Sunday per schedule and there were present some 6,000 in the audience. Secretary Morrison, Raymond Robbins and Frank Milholland were the speakers. That night there had been another meeting scheduled to take place near one of the hotels in Altoona and just prior to calling the meeting to order the Mayor telephoned to Secretary Morrison stating that the ministers of the city had protested against a labor meeting being held on Sunday. Mr. Morrison replied that labor sermons would be preached and that nothing would be said that could give offense to any of the ministers in the city, and upon this statement the Mayor withdrew his objections and the meeting was held. It is rather an amusing incident that an injunction should be issued against the holding of a public meeting in an amusement park—a place where meetings of this character are usually held, and demonstrates the lengths to which employers of labor will go in endeavoring to frustrate any movement looking toward the organization of men who work for wages. Present indications are to the effect that the strike of the men on the Pennsylvania Railway System is becoming more and more effective as time goes on.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

In ten city squares in New York City there are employed 29,692 persons in factories. These immense workshops are located with a view to easy access to transportation lines.

In New York City, including all the subdivisions, there are 102,886 tenement houses.

Miss Maud E. Miner, Secretary of the Probation Association of New York, says there are three principal causes for crime and delinquency—namely, the sweatshop home, the deserted home and the overcrowded home.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

Washington, June 10.—The regular quarterly meeting of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor will meet in Washington on Monday, June 12. The session will undoubtedly consume the entire week, as much important matter is awaiting attention.

THE WAY TO LOOK AT IT

Washington, June 10.—The San Francisco Star, in commenting on the closing down of the East Oakland plant of the California Cotton Mills as a direct result of putting the eight-hour law for women into effect, inspiringly grapples the subject in the manner in which every such case should be treated. Humanitarian enactments apparently reach no responsive chord in the breasts of brutal profit hunters, and defiance still abides as their chief characteristics. The coast paper says: "Well, here is our doctrine on the matter: Better that such a plant, or a hundred such plants, should close and remain closed, than that women should be compelled to carry burdens which their frailty unfits them to bear. Better that a few women here and there should be thrown out of a job than that the entire sex should be subjected to such long hours of labor as Greed might choose to give them."

A LAY OFF EXPECTED

Washington, June 10.—It is by semi-official authority stated that a large number of workmen will be laid off at the Brooklyn Navy Yard in the near future. The cause assigned is the lack of work.

CO-OPERATIVES OF ENGLAND

Washington, June 10.—From old country papers it is said that the co-operatives of England last year had a membership of 2,777,513, and with assets aggregating \$294,897,470, an increase of over \$10,000,000 over that of the previous year. The business done by the co-operatives last year aggregated \$547,064,229, which is much more than was done by any single private enterprise in England.

Ann Arbor (Mich.) molders have won strike for 50 cents per day and reduction of working day one hour.

HUMAN CONSERVATION

Industry Must Be Charged and Held Responsible for Future Physical Welfare of Workmen.

Washington, June 10.—In the current issue of La Follette's Weekly is an article by Thomas J. Mahon, a member of the state legislature, who is advocating an industrial commission to apply scientific means in solving the industrial problem. The plan proposed is identical with that of the interstate commerce commission. It is argued that if the above commission, being clothed with power and authority to require interstate common carriers to fix reasonable rates and provide adequate facilities for transportation, it is feasible and necessary also that provisions be made whereby health and life may be protected without undue delay. A conservation commission, given adequate scope of authority would be able to meet the ever recurring questions coming as the result of our rapidly changing economic conditions. "If we do not have better opportunities for our workers," the article goes on to say, "so far conditions under which they shall live, better educational opportunities, and if the humane note is not struck in our legislation, then indeed our prosperity turns to ashes. How best to secure that safety in employment is the great problem that is strictly up to us."

In defense of the commission idea to regulate industry as it applies to workmen, in contradistinction to labor laws, the following sentence is explanatory: "They constitute (labor laws) a body of laws ill adapted to the wonderful and changing system of industry under which we live. A law which describes a piece of machinery in detail is hard to draft and still harder to enforce, and after the description has been made as thorough as human ingenuity can make it, there still remains the fact that, with the rapid growth of invention, tomorrow the description may be obsolete and useless."

SWITCHMEN ELECT

Washington, June 10.—At the convention of the Switchmen's Union of North America, held in St. Paul, S. E. Heberling of Denver, Colo., was elected president to succeed Frank T. Hawley, who for eleven years has been the executive head of the organization.

RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE

Washington, June 10.—The magazines are taking notice of the questionable methods being employed by the postoffice department in victimizing mail clerks who become members of the American Federation of Labor. A prominent periodical carries an article in its June issue entitled, "Littiny in the Railway Mail Service", and treats the postoffice department without gloves.

Taylorville (Ill.) carpenters won a strike for a raise from 40 to 50 cents per hour.

Cedar Rapids (Iowa) building trade unions, eleven in number, have all secured increases from 5 cents per hour to \$1.50 per week.

FRANK DUFFY APPOINTED

Secretary Treasurer of United Brotherhood of Carpenters Selected Member of Important Commission.

Washington, June 10.—Frank Duffy, Secretary-Treasurer of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, has just been appointed by Governor Marshall, of the State of Indiana, as one of the seven Commissioners to be appointed to investigate the needs of industrial and agricultural education. The recent General Assembly of the State of Indiana enacted a law providing for an investigation of the needs for and methods of industrial and agricultural education. The law provided that the Governor should appoint a Commission of seven persons representing the manufacturing, labor, agricultural and educational interests of the State, to be known as the Commission on Industrial and Agricultural Education. The selection of Secretary Duffy to this important position is a guarantee that Labor's interests will be properly guarded in the work of the Commission.

MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP

Washington, June 10.—The ownership of public utilities by municipalities, where records are available, show a cheapening of the cost of production, together with a surplus for the municipalities controlling such utilities. Among the various public utilities owned and operated by Frankfort, Prussia, the City Water Works netted a profit of \$115,000 in 1909. The municipal power plant netted \$631,200, and the municipal street railway system, \$383,105, a total net profit of \$1,127,305. In addition to the mechanics, including machinists, electricians, plumbers, joiners, saddlers, upholsterers and masons, there are also employed some seventy tailors, who make all the uniforms worn by the employes of the various utilities under the control of the City.

ENGLAND'S UNEMPLOYMENT BILL.

Washington, June 10.—At a conference of the Labor Party in England, a very strong demand was expressed for a widening of the scope of the proposed unemployment benefits incorporated in the new Bill recently introduced by Lloyd-George. At present the unemployed benefits are confined to certain groups of trades and the opinion of the conference was that it is most unfair to make others pay for these benefits. The question of the effect of the measure upon trade unions was also considered, and the opinion was practically unanimous that it would not be injurious to them, providing that they took steps to adapt themselves to the new condition created by the measure.

USES LABEL ILLEGALLY

Washington, June 10.—In a communication from Lancaster, Penn., it is stated that one of the clothing firms of that City has just been detected in the illegal use of the Garment Workers' label. From some source they have secured Garment Workers' labels, and when clothing bearing the label has been demanded, the firm has had the label sewed in. Suit has been brought against the firm.

SENATOR BOURNE FAVORS RECALL

Washington, June 10.--Senator Bourne of Oregon, vigorously upholds the recall in general and its application to the Judiciary in particular. In a recent interview he criticised ex-President Roosevelt and Gov. Woodrow Wilson for their objections to the application of the recall to the Judiciary in the following language:

"They fear that if judges are made subject to recall they will lose their independence and permit their opinions and official actions to be influenced by their political interests. If that is true, then judges now permit their decisions and official actions to be influenced by desire for renomination, re-election, or promotion. If a judge will permit his official actions to be influenced by fear of the recall, he already permits his actions to be influenced by fear of the political boss and his backer, the campaign contributor. The objection of these two eminent gentlemen is not so much a criticism of the recall as it is a reflection upon the integrity and intelligence of the American people and the integrity and courage of the judiciary."

IMMIGRANTS DELUDED

Washington, June 10.--The great exodus from Great Britain of immigrants to the colonies, and especially to Canada, has caused many thousands of people to suffer. Letters are and have been pouring into England from these immigrants stating that the promises which allured them to migrate, have been found to be illusory. It is a well known fact that employers of labor not only in Canada, but in the United States, have been insistently advertising the alleged favorable industrial conditions in Canada and the United States. There has been a very large number of immigrants arriving during the last eighteen months and the labor markets of Canada are glutted to the extent of intense suffering.

MUNICIPALITIES ADVANCE WAGES

Washington, June 10.--In Newcastle-on-Tyne, Gateshead, South Shields, Sunderland, Stockton, Middlesboro, York, Hull, and a number of other English towns and cities, have advanced the wages of their employes, and in a number of instances, reduced the hours of labor without any reduction in the former price paid. Over six thousand men have been benefited to the extent of over \$50,000 a year.

THE SEAMEN'S STRIKE IMMINENT

Washington, June 10.--The threatened strike of over one hundred thousand seamen belonging to all nationalities, now appears to be reaching a point where there will be an actual cessation of work unless the ship owners agree to discuss the matter with the officers of the organization representing the men. A secret date has been selected, and if on that day some settlement has not been had, the strike will take place, and it is intimated that the 28th of the month is the day on which the strike will be inaugurated.

PUSHING PARCELS POST

Washington, June 10.—Senator Bourne of Oregon has introduced a resolution in the Senate to empower the committee on postoffices and postroads to make an inquiry into what changes are necessary to be made in the operation of the department, with a view to establishing a parcels post. The question of adding this feature to the postoffice department is becoming more and more pressing, and advocates are being added every day.

WELSH COAL STRIKE

Washington, June 10.—It was reported a week or so ago that the Welsh Coal Miners had reached a settlement of the strike then in progress in South Wales. Later information states that a deadlock has occurred, many of the miners protesting against the acceptance of the terms offered by the operators. Indications point to a further prolongation of the strike.

TRADE UNION FUNDS

Bill Introduced in English Parliament Legalizing Expenditure for Parliamentary Purposes.

Washington, June 10.—The bill introduced in the English Parliament to amend the law with respect to the objects and powers of trade unions contains the following points: It is provided that wherever a member files notice against paying his proportion of levies made in the furtherance of political objects, even though it has been approved by a majority of the trade union to which he belongs, he is to be relieved of his proportionate payment of the same. Should there be no levies and the money taken out of the general fund of the organization, he is to be rebated his pro rate share when it comes to a settlement for his dues. Another condition is that the member, who files notice of refusal to contribute to the political fund of the union, shall not be excluded from any benefits of the union or placed in any respect at any disadvantage as compared with other members of a union, except, of course, in relation to the control or management of the political fund by reason of his being so exempt, and that contribution to the political fund of the union shall not be made a condition for admission to the union. Some objection has been offered by officials of the organizations of England to this procedure, but it is not thought that any serious objections will be raised. Any individual, or any number of individuals, refusing to assist in a general way, the entire organization must of necessity be held in an unfavorable light. This being the case, it is assumed that very few members of the English trade unions will refuse to contribute their proportionate share of the expenses incurred in Parliamentary action.

METAL TRADES GET INCREASE

Washington, June 10.—The machinists and other metal trades in Jacksonville, Florida, are waging a contest to secure an advance in wages and a nine hour day in all contract shops. The information has just been received that the largest shop in the city has acceded to the demands of the strikers and signed its first union agreement. The advance is from 28 to 36 cents per hour as a minimum rate.

BOILER INSPECTION LAW

Statute Enacted at the Last Session of Congress to Be Put Into Operation at Early Date.

Washington, June 10.—Pursuant to the law enacted by Congress at the last session, creating a bureau for the inspection of locomotive boilers, there were appointed three chief boiler inspectors, John T. Ensign having received the appointment of Chief Inspector, a member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers. The assistant chief inspectors are Frank McManamey, a member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen, and O. D. Robinson, mechanical engineer. These three chief inspectors were directed to formulate rules and regulations for the government of the bureau. In compliance with these instructions there were called together the superintendents of motive power of the Union Pacific Railway Company, Louisville and Nashville, Rock Island, Pennsylvania System and the New York Central, who were vested with full authority to act for 90% of the Railroads in the United States, together with H. E. Mills, legislative agent for the Railway Brotherhoods. Several sessions were held by those representing the railroads, the bureau and the Brotherhoods, and rules and regulations were adopted for the regulation of the inspection department, the decision finally reached being acceptable to all parties interested. There are to be 50 district inspectors appointed and notices have been forwarded to all the principal cities in the country where civil service examinations for proficiency were held on June 7 and 8. As soon as the reports are filed selections will be made. The inspection department will commence active operation on July 1, 1911.

SPLendid AGREEMENT REACHED

Washington, June 10.—Organizer Hugh Frayne reports that he has been successful, with a committee of business agents, in signing an agreement with the Scranton Electric Light Company at Scranton, Pa., for the erection of a million dollar plant. The agreement provides for the employment of all union men including all excavating. Another agreement was reached at Scranton between organized labor and a large restaurant company to employ hereafter only members of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees and also union musicians. This latter company is also doing a large amount of construction work and have also agreed that this shall be done by union men as well.

PHILADELPHIA PLUMBERS WIN

Washington, June 10.—After a struggle of a few weeks duration the plumbers of Philadelphia have secured an increase in wages, and all of the men have returned to work.

CARMEN GET RAISE

Washington, June 10.—The Brotherhood of Railway Carmen have been successful in securing a raise of wages on the Canadian Northern Railroad. This organization has been very successful this year in increase of membership and wage advances.

Newburgh (N.Y.) carpenters have just secured substantial increase.

WATCH CASE MAKERS STRIKE

An Attempt to Introduce Taylor or Emerson System in Watch Case Factory Causes Strike.

Washington, June 10.—The Keystone Watch Case Company, the largest concern of its kind in the country, with numerous branches, employing approximately 3,000 highly skilled workmen and workwomen, recently began to introduce the Taylor system of shop management into its Philadelphia plant. Inspectors were placed in the factory and the workmen were timed with stop watches in every movement made. The employes became incensed at the treatment and 120 men left the works in a body. These men are unorganized and no effort was made to organize them until after the strike occurred. The plant is practically closed down, for with the number stated on strike their places must be filled before other department can be kept at work.

ILLINOIS STATE FEDERATION

Washington, June 10.—A detailed report has just been received of the accomplishments of the Illinois State Federation of Labor during the recent session of the state legislature. Among the prominent measures secured are the workmen's compensation bill, employers' liability, occupational disease, day labor, women's ten hour, mining investigation and miners' protective bills.

OFFICIAL ENDORSEMENTS

Washington, June 10.—Numerous communications have been received at headquarters detailing the operations of individuals who visit towns and cities where there are chartered central bodies, seeking and sometimes obtaining endorsements for prospective publications to be devoted to the interests of labor organizations. The towns most frequently "worked" are those where no regular publication is in existence devoted to labor. One instance here related is similar to others that have been reported. In a town in New York a gentleman procured the endorsement of the central body and then used the endorsement to threaten advertisers with the displeasure and boycott of the central body to get business. One issue of the publication appeared, with indiscriminate display advertisements and flattering reading notices of firms conspicuously unfair, and the whilom "editor" then decamped. Central bodies should be extremely careful and only give endorsements where publications have proven by their worth by a proper attitude, both as to business methods and loyalty to the cause.

CEMENT MAKERS' AGREEMENT

Washington, June 10.—The cement makers of Trident, Mont., have just executed a two-year agreement with the Three Forks Portland Cement Company, whereby an increase of wages has been secured and also the practical elimination of the Japanese employed at the plant. The agreement also provides the rental to be paid for the dwelling houses owned by the company and occupied by the workmen. The officials of the State Federation of Labor were instrumental in the satisfactory settlement.

SIGNS 54-HOUR LAW

Governor of Massachusetts Puts Seal of Approval on Bill Relating to Women and Minors,

Washington, June 10.--A bill introduced by the textile unions of the state of Massachusetts during the last session of the legislature has been enacted into law. The governor has just attached his signature, and the 54-hour week will be an actuality January 1, 1912. For many years the textile workmen have been endeavoring to regulate by law the hours to be worked, but until this year without success. The regulation just adopted will materially assist in relieving the workers of onerous conditions that have prevailed in this industry.

LOCKOUT AT MADRID

Washington, June 10.--The International Secretariat, with headquarters at Berlin, has received an urgent appeal of the Spanish Federation of Trade Unions on behalf of the 6,500 locked out workers of the building trades at Madrid. The lockout is the result of a strike of bricklayers who demanded a renewal of their agreement. The total number affected is 9,500. Just like America, the organized employers, aided by the government, are endeavoring to crush the unions.

ELEVATOR ACCIDENTS

Washington, June 10.--During the last session of Congress bills were introduced in the Senate and House to regulate the construction and operation of elevators in the District of Columbia. The intent of the bills was to prevent the elevator cars from being moved in either direction while any gate or door used for entrance or exit is unclosed. There are automatic devices which place the power of starting the elevator beyond the control of the operator while the gate or door is open. Official reports state that there is a record of over 5,000 killed and injured each year in accidents of this character, but that so far it has been impossible to gather complete statistics.

FAVORS GOVERNMENT CONTROL

Steel Trust Magnate, Testifying Before Inquiry, Announces Belief That New Methods Must Be Employed.

Washington, June 10.--Judge E. H. Gary, chairman of the executive committee of the United States Steel Corporation, stated to the Stanley investigating committee of the House that he considered it very important that the people should be protected against great aggregations of capital. "I believe we must come to enforced publicity and government control", he said. "I know that is a very extreme view, and that the railroads objected to it for a long time. But whether the mere standpoint of making the most money is concerned or not, I believe it is the necessary thing, and it seems to me that corporations have no right to disregard these public questions and these public interests."

Belleville (Ill.) carpenters secured Saturday half holiday and two-year agreement, with 5 cents per hour increase in 1912.

CONGRATULATES NEWS SERVICE

Free Federation of Workmen Direct Letter of Commendation Be Forwarded to President Gompers.

Washington, June 10.—The following communication, self-explanatory has been received by President Gompers:

"The Executive Council of the Free Federation of Workmen of Porto Rico; has instructed me to send you congratulations for the "Weekly Official Notices", which are being published under direction of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, about greater events with which American labor unions are confronted. Without doubt such information has a great significance because it is coming to carry to the minds of every organized man and woman the knowledge of the progress which can be obtained with a systematic and firm work. A large part of this work is translated for me into the Spanish language and published in the "Labor Union" (Union Obrera), only paper advocated to the aims and object of the organized labor in this country. For that reason, I am sending you, in name of the Free Federation of Labor and myself, congratulations for such information which is considered in this country of a great value. With kind regards, I remain,

Yours fraternally,

Rafael Alonso, Sec. Free Federation of the Workmen of Porto Rico."

CARPENTERS WIN

Washington, June 10.—A communication from General Secretary Frank Duffy of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters, conveys the information that the Carpenters in Green Bay, Wis., after a two months' strike have entered into an agreement with the employers, an advance of 2½ cents per hour having been gained.

FOR THE PRINTING TRADES

Washington, June 10.—Representative Dyer has introduced a bill in Congress to increase the wages of the printers, pressmen, and bookbinders in the Government Printing Office to sixty cents per hour.

CASES ALL DISMISSED

Washington, June 10.—For weeks the Manufacturers' Association of Los Angeles has attempted to convict a number of union men of "conspiracy", on account of their activity in endeavoring to induce men to cease work where strikes were in progress. A "hung" jury was had in one case that went to trial, and other cases pending have been continued from time to time until recently all the cases against the union men were dismissed.

Utica (N.Y.) carpenters secured increase of 5 cents per hour.

Portsmouth (O.) carpenters get raise of 50 cents per day. Painters secured same increase, and Sheet Metal Workers secured 25 cents per day increase.

Concord (N.H.) city laborers secured increase from \$1.60 to \$1.75 and \$2.00 per day..